Green Infrastructure Work Group
Meeting Notes – 5/21/08

Group Meetings – 1st Wednesday each month, 4:30 – 6:00 PM, the next meeting will June 4th. Meetings will be held at the Department of Planning in the Benton Building, 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th floor. ID is required to enter the building.

Community Meetings – Wednesday, June 18th 6-8 PM – Neighborhood
Design Center, 1401 Hollins St. Baltimore 21223
Thursday, July 17th 6-8 PM - TBD
Saturday, August 16th 10 AM – Noon - TBD

- Introductions

- Brief Discussion of Sustainability Plan framework Timeline

- Sarah Zaleski discussed the Plan Timeline – legislative mandate said that plan would be completed within 6 months, however this is a very short timeline, and therefore it has been expanded to 8 months to give the commission and workgroups sufficient time to complete everything. Workgroups will report there findings to the Sustainability Commission in October.

- Sustainability Commission meets Monthly, the next meeting is May 27th 6-8 PM, this will be the first large public meeting.

- A list of expected deliverables for the work group was distributed by Sarah. (see attached) The deliverables include:

  o Vision Statement for Group (to be discussed with community at 1st Workgroup community meeting and presented and discussed at the June commission meeting)
  o Goals
  o Indicators
  o Targets

- All workgroup meetings are officially open to the public, however each workgroup will hold 3 Community meetings which will be advertised and used to get public commentary, suggestions and feedback on our work.

- We will need to figure out how we will format our community meetings and whether or not we will give public attendants at regular meetings an opportunity to comment, or whether these meetings will be just for observation and their comments can be submitted by email or at one of the community meetings.

- Advertisement of public meetings was discussed, it was suggested that we try to get on the calendar at the City Paper, and City Council and Mayor's newsletters, use the office of neighborhoods mailing lists.

- We will try to hold the Community meetings on different days and in different areas of the city so that we maximize people's opportunities to participate.

- At the first Community Meeting on June 18th we will discuss the vision statement for Green Infrastructure and a definition of Green Infrastructure for our purposes. The definition of Sustainability will also be discussed. We also plan to have a presentation prepared (Biohabitats may have a presentation of Green Infrastructure which we could start with). A bumper sticker exercise was suggested to get people thinking about their vision for Green Infrastructure in Baltimore.

- What is Green Infrastructure?
  - Ecology & Biodiversity
  - Quality of Life
  - Community Gardens (Urban Agriculture/ Farming)
  - Food Security (Access to and affordability of food esp. fresh local foods)
  - Parks (maintenance)
  - Liveability, neighborhoods with Street Trees / Streetscaping
  - Greenspace
  - Reclaiming vacant lots
  - Playgrounds
  - Stream valleys

- We need to speak in ways that really connect with and engage people, things they can relate to like Public Health. Define public health benefits better i.e. asthma, obesity, diabetes, safety, job security.

- As staff to the Workgroup, Kate Edwards will help with necessary background research, and research of current state of affairs in Baltimore when needed.

- Information will be posted on CollectiveX website, invites will be sent to all workgroup members if you have not received them yet.

Resources / Articles
- **San Francisco Sustainability Plan**
  http://www.sustainable-city.org/Plan/Intro/intro.htm
- **NYC Sustainability Plan**
  http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/downloads/download.shtml

- **City of Minneapolis** Sustainability Initiative 2005 and 2007 Annual Reports
  http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/sustainability-report2005.pdf
  http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/2007SustainablityReport.asp
- **Santa Monica** Sustainable City Plan
  https://www.smgov.net/epd/scp/pdf/SCP_2006_Adopted_Plan.pdf
- The Center for Whole Communities website
  www.wholecommunities.org
- Washington Post Article
  http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/24/AR2008042403952.html?hpid=topnews
- Tree Baltimore Overview
  http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/downloads/Baltimore_Tree_Canopy.pdf
- Parks and People Foundation Website
  http://parksandpeople.org/programs_great_parks.html
- Center for a Livable Center at Johns Hopkins University Website
  http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/about_clf_new/
- Sustainable Food Systems Overview http://www.faqs.org/nutrition/Smi-Z/Sustainable-Food-Systems.html
- Seeing Green: Study Finds Greening is a Good Investment
  http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/seeinggreen.htm
- Baltimore Sun Op-Ed. Go home-grown: City should work together to boost the availability of locally produced food
  www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.localfood26feb26,0,416595,print.story